



Any reply or subsequent reference to this communication should be addressed to the Contractor-General and the following reference quoted:-

No. :

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**OFFICE OF THE CONTRACTOR-GENERAL**  
**17 KNUTSFORD BOULEVARD**  
**P.O. Box 540**  
**KINGSTON 5**  
**JAMAICA, W.I.**

URGENT

November 15, 2006

Mr. Wilmot Perkins  
Director and Host  
Perkins On Line  
Via Email to: [perkinsonline@cwjamaica.com](mailto:perkinsonline@cwjamaica.com)

Dear Mr. Perkins:

Re: Statements Attributed to the Minister of Local Government and Environment, The Hon. Dean Peart, re Cabinet Decision dated July 30, 2001 - Regarding Procurement Procedures to be Applied to Special Employment Programmes, Drain Cleaning and Small Emergency Works - Allegation of Agreement between the Minister and the Contractor General

It has come to my attention that it has been alleged on your Radio Talk Show that the Hon. Dean Peart and myself either spoke with each other or met with each other and determined that the captioned Cabinet Decision should be ignored and/or circumvented.

Today, an email, from one of your listeners, was read over your programme demanding that I should appear on your programme to explain my alleged agreement with the Honourable Minister.

I wish to categorically state that I have never met the Honourable Minister nor have I ever had any such discussion or agreement with the Minister as has been alleged.

I have spoken with the Minister on two (2) previous occasions, once during a teleconference which was convened on May 30, 2006 and again quite recently on November 7, 2006, when he telephoned me. On neither of these occasions, was any such matter discussed between the Minister and myself.

I should wish to state also that a copy of the document embodying the referenced Cabinet Decision was first shown to Mr. Percival Griffiths, the Director of Licences and Permits in the OCG, on Thursday, November 9, 2006. Mr. Griffiths, who is the OCG's Director with responsibility for Local Government matters, was then in attendance at a meeting at the Ministry of Local Government to finalize the arrangements for the Procurement Procedures Workshop for the Parish Councils, which was to be convened by the Ministry on Monday, November 13, 2006.

Mr. Griffiths has advised me that Thursday, November 9, 2006, was the first that he had seen the document. Further checks within the OCG have disclosed that there is no evidence that the subject Cabinet Decision was ever previously communicated to the OCG. The first occasion on which I, as Contractor General, saw the document, was Monday, November 13, 2006.



(2)

You might also wish to record that Mr. Griffiths telephoned the Honorable Minister on November 8, on my behalf, and conveyed to him, my concerns about the captioned allegations. A letter of the same date was subsequently written to the Minister, by Mr. Griffiths, requesting that he should move to have the media reports, which were false, corrected.

The matter regarding the difficulties which are being faced by the Parish Councils in complying with the Government Procurement Procedures has been the subject of prior discussions and communications between the OCG and the Ministry. In all instances, the Ministry was advised, by the OCG, to secure the approval of the National Contracts Commission (NCC) in respect of any exemptions to the Guidelines which the Ministry deems to be appropriate.

The Office of the Contractor General has no jurisdiction or authority to revise or circumvent the Government's Procurement Procedures and Guidelines.

The principal functions of the Contractor General are to monitor the award and implementation of Government contracts with a view to ensuring (a) that such contracts are awarded impartially and on merit, (b) that the circumstances in which such contracts are awarded or terminated do not involve impropriety or irregularity, and (c) that the implementation of such contracts conforms to the terms thereof.

The Contractor General is also mandated to monitor the grant, issue, suspension or revocation of any prescribed license. Additionally, he is empowered to conduct investigations into certain matters, such as the registration of contractors, tender procedures, contract awards and grants of licenses.

Very respectfully yours,

Greg Christie (Signed)

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Greg Christie  
Contractor General

Copy: The Hon. Dean Peart, Minister of Local Government and Environment  
Mr. Devon Rowe, Permanent Secretary, Minister of Local Government and Environment  
Mr. Percival Griffiths, Director of Licences and Permits, OCG